

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 71 – 96 are in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to US Patent No. 3,541,744 (Maxwell) made of record herewith in an accompanying information disclosure statement.

New claim 71 includes attachment mechanisms on the support module for cooperation with and attachment to corresponding attachment mechanisms provided on the room chassis of a room module.

While the Maxwell patent apparently shows individually attachable cantilevered rooms, that reference does not disclose attachment mechanisms as defined in claim 71 or in its analogous method claim 93. That attachment feature is also incorporated into Independent claim 96. Accordingly, the new claims presented here are not anticipated by Maxwell or any other reference of record.

The invention as claimed here overcomes the problems associated with the prior art by providing a way to precisely select the placement of room modules relative to the support module. For example, French Patent Application No. 7834774 discloses room modules that can only be attached to any one support module in but one lateral position. This limitation restricts the flexibility of the design, particularly when considering the addition of custom rooms of differing external dimensions possibly supplied by different manufacturers.

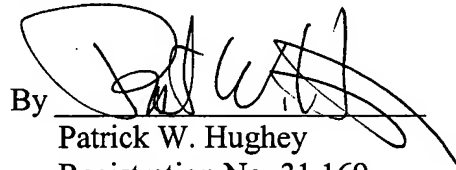
The claimed flexible approach is not taught nor suggested by any of the prior art references of record. Accordingly, the present claims are believed to be non-obvious over those references considered alone or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that all of the present claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
ipsolon llp

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